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**THREE DEFENDANTS CHARGED IN MASSIVE
MARIJUANA GARDEN DISCOVERED ON INDIAN RESERVATION**

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury in Fresno returned a two-count indictment charging Oscar Figueroa, 40, Fernando Lopez-Lizarraga, 37, and Edgar Rios-Millan, 18, all of Delano, California, with Conspiracy to Manufacture Marijuana and Manufacturing Marijuana.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Carl M. Faller, Jr., who is prosecuting the case, court documents state that Tulare County Sheriff's Deputies discovered a large marijuana cultivation site in a mountainous area of the Tule Indian Reservation during an overflight on October 1st. Deputies were then airlifted into the area and they discovered Figueroa walking down a trail connected to one of the cultivation plots. He was arrested at the scene and documents seized at that location led investigators to the other defendants. A total of 72,000 marijuana plants were found growing in several connected growing plots, together with cultivating equipment and supplies.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense is life in prison with a mandatory minimum term of 10 years. Each defendant is also subject to a fine of \$4,000,000.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration assisted in the investigation.

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